

NAGS HEAD LINES

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Issue 68

Summer 2008

A communications link between you and your government, this publication intends to keep you informed about the "happenings" in your town.

Message from Town Hall

Water Conservation

Water conservation is the most important action we can take to sustain our water supplies, meet future needs, and reduce demands on our fragile water-dependent ecosystems.

According to www.SaveWaterNC.com, as of July 29, 2008, most of eastern and central North Carolina is in a moderate drought, while most of western North Carolina is facing extreme drought conditions.

Recently, the Outer Banks has received rainfall, but this does not mean that we can stop conserving water. Development all around us, including building occurring upstream from our area, can impact our water resources greatly. So, please, conserve water for our future.



New Curbside Recycling Service for Nags Head Residences

The Town of Nags Head has signed an agreement with Outer Banks Hauling to provide curbside recycling collection services to residences in the town. For \$7.45/month, Outer Banks Hauling will provide service subscribers a recycling container in which you can place all of your recyclables (yes, they can be commingled). Each week, Outer Banks Hauling will collect your recyclables (such as old newsprint, clear and colored glass, aluminum beverage containers, tin cans, steel cans, bi-metal cans, #1 and #2 plastics, magazines, phonebooks, corrugated cardboard, pressboard, paperboard and junk mail) from the curbside recycling container.

The Town will continue to provide recycling trailers at various spots throughout Nags Head (see recycling information on page 6 of this newsletter).

Call Outer Banks Hauling at 252-480-6699 to sign up!

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Changes to Town Law Regarding Single Family Dwellings

At their June 4, 2008 meeting, the Nags Head Board of Commissioners changed a Town law regarding single family dwellings.

What is a “Nonconforming single-family structure”?

A nonconforming single-family structure is a structure, such as a home, that was fully lawful when it was originally built, but due to changes in the Town’s laws over time, no longer “conforms” to the current requirements. For example, the Town regulates the distance between homes and lot lines. This regulation has changed over the years as Nags Head has grown. A home built in the 1970s, according to current regulations, may sit too close to the adjoining lot line; therefore, the home would be in nonconformance. Examples of structural nonconformities include: structure is too tall; structure has too many bedrooms; structure has too much enclosed living space; and structure is too close to property lines.

What does the ordinance change mean?

While nonconforming structures are allowed to continue without changing, there are restrictions on repairs, modifications, and replacements. Typically, the value of the work being done on the structure cannot exceed 50% of the structure’s assessed value. In other words, if your home was assessed at \$300,000, your repairs and modifications would have to be less than \$150,000 in value. The new ordinance lifts the above value restrictions for legal nonconforming single-family structures when the work is occurring as a result of an accidental loss, such as a fire or storm. Illegal structural nonconformities cannot be repaired or replaced under this newly adopted ordinance unless the necessary permits and approvals can

Sanitation Collection Schedule

Residential

East Route

Properties south of the intersection of Routes 12 and 1243 (Whalebone Junction) and all properties east of US 158/Croatan Highway

Summer Schedule (Begins 3rd Monday in May)
Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday
Collection begins 3 a.m.

Winter Schedule (Begins last Monday in September)
Monday and Friday, Collection begins 5 a.m.

West Route

Properties west of US 158 and those abutting/accessed from US 64 and 264

Same Schedule All Year

Collection: Tuesday and Friday
Collection begins 5 a.m. (winter) and 3 a.m. (summer)

Please roll out carts facing the street the day prior to collection day and back to the house on collection day.

Having a special event and need to rent extra carts? Call Eddie Curry, Sanitation Superintendent, 252-449-4206.

Commercial

Summer Schedule (Begins 3rd Monday in May)
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday
Refuse collection begins at 3 a.m.

Winter Schedule (Begins last Monday in September)
Monday and Friday
Refuse collection begins at 5 a.m.

Bulk Item/Brush Drop Off Yard

Large items/brush can be dropped off throughout the year at the Town’s collection site across from Public Works at 2200 Lark Avenue. Site hours are: Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Changes to Town Law That May Affect You
Continued from page 2

be obtained prior to the loss event.

What do I need to do?

To take advantage of this ordinance if you have an accidental loss, your existing structural nonconformities must be documented prior to the loss. Documentation may include:

- an as-built survey
- an elevation certificate
- a height certification as prepared by a Registered NC Land Surveyor
- Photographs of the outside and inside of your structure are helpful to determine architectural compliance and the number of habitable floors and bedrooms

If you don't use the ordinance, repair and/or replacement would be required to be in full compliance with existing regulations. In addition, this ordinance does not offer relief from the requirements of the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA), NC State Building Code, Health Department, and other regulatory agencies. Keep in mind that the zoning ordinance changes from time to time and any request for reconstruction will be based upon the ordinances, rules and regulations in effect at the time of the permit application for construction.

I think I may have a nonconforming structure, what do I need to do next?

Though it is up to you to provide the necessary documentation, we will be glad to help in researching and obtaining any existing documentation the Town may have to help you determine if your dwelling is structurally nonconforming.

Questions? Contact the zoning administrators below.

Kelly Wyatt, 252-449-6042
wyatt@townofnagshead.net

Dabni Shelton, 252-449-6045
shelton@townofnagshead.net

Septic Tank Inspection and Pumping Program

July 1 - May 31, 2009

Septic Tank Inspection/Pumping Program

Over 300 property and business owners participated last year in the Nags Head Septic Health Initiative. Since the program's inception in early 2001, well over 2,000 owners have made the call and had the health of their septic checked for free.

The Septic Health Initiative encourages homeowners, through incentives and educational resources, to have their septic systems inspected and pumped out (if needed) on a regular basis.

The inspection of a conventional (gravity) system, with pre-approval by staff, is free. Tank pump outs (if needed) are arranged by the homeowner and are eligible for a \$30 water credit (limit 1 every 3 years).

The Initiative also offers low-interest loans to repair malfunctioning conventional (gravity) systems in Nags Head.

If you have not had your septic system inspected or pumped out in a while, or you have questions about the repair loan program or to schedule an inspection, please call (252-449-6047) or email (Krafft@townofnagshead.net) Todd Krafft to find out more about the Septic Health Initiative.



Nags Head Bans All Fireworks

Ensuring the safety of Nags Head's citizens and visitors is the top priority for the Nags Head Department of Public Safety. To this end, the Department would like to notify you of a change to a Town ordinance regarding the use of fireworks within town limits.

In the past, fireworks that exploded, moved across the ground, or shot into the air were banned. At their January 9, 2008 meeting, the Nags Head Board of Commissioners banned the use of all fireworks in the town. The addition to the ordinance now includes all fireworks - making the discharge of any fireworks, including sparklers, illegal. The use of any fireworks could result in a civil fine or misdemeanor criminal charge.

"Except as otherwise provided in this section it shall be unlawful for any person to ignite or explode any firecracker, torpedo, sky rocket, sparkler or other substance or device that contains an explosive or flammable compound or substance, and is intended or commonly known as fireworks, and which explodes, rises into the air or travels laterally, fires projectiles or discharges sparks into the air."

Nags Head Town Code Section 26-2A

The purpose of this change is not to prevent citizens and visitors from enjoying Nags Head, but to ensure their safety, as well as the safety of the town itself for years to come. Injuries and fires are common occurrences associated with the use of fireworks. By banning all fireworks, incidents like these in Nags Head can be avoided.

For more information, please call the Nags Head Police Division at 252-441-6386.

Did You Know?

Private Driveways Don't Mean Public Access

Remember - private driveways are NOT public property. Please do not use private driveways to access the beach - use one of the many public beach accesses available in Nags Head. Please be sure to forward this information on to your renters.

Nags Head Dog Owner Responsibilities

- Dogs must wear identification and rabies tags. All dog owners in Dare County must license their pets.
- Keep your dog quiet. Be a good neighbor and promote peace in your neighborhood.
- Confine your dog within your premises.
- Your dog will be considered running at large if it is not on a leash and under the control of a person physically able to control it, except when confined on your premises in accordance with Town ordinances.
- Immediately remove your dog's waste when excreted on property other than your own - this includes the beach!
- Prevent the accumulation of dog waste on your property.
- Properly dispose of your dog's waste.



Town Street Right of Ways - Do's and Dont's



Stormwater in a swale near Town Hall provides a pool for the ducks.

Did you know that your property doesn't necessarily end at the edge of the street? Many people don't realize that, while Town streets may only have pavement 20 to 24 feet across, the right-of-way (R-O-W) may be 50 or 60 feet wide at that location. A right-of-way is land owned by, or dedicated to, the Town for the purpose of maintaining a public thoroughfare. So, if a street is 24 feet wide, and the R-O-W is 60 feet wide, more than half of the total width of the R-O-W will be unpaved.

The R-O-W's unpaved area often contains drainage ditches or swales that help remove stormwater from the road surface, reducing the potential for accidents during storms and limiting the flooding of adjacent yards. These drainage facilities should not be filled or blocked in any way. In addition, the unpaved portions of the R-O-W also provide space for the installation of underground utilities, including water, electricity, cable TV, phone, fiber optics, and natural gas. Finally, another important function of these "shoulder" areas is to permit a vehicle that leaves the paved roadway to come to a stop without impacting a hard structure - another great reason to keep the R-O-Ws free of obstructions.

Most aboveground utility installations, such as water meter boxes, telephone pedestals, and utility poles are installed at the edge of the R-O-W. The back edge (furthest from the street) of your water meter box is a good approximation of where the R-O-W ends and your property begins. Drawing an imaginary line through this point and parallel to the edge of the street will show you how much of your yard is actually in the Town's R-O-W. Nothing should be built in this area. Items that must be accessed from the street, such as a USPS approved mailbox or a newspaper delivery box, are permitted in this space. While all Town (public) streets are within a R-O-W, the center of the road may not be in the center of the R-O-W.

If you have an irrigation system or underground, invisible pet fence, please notify the Town. If we must dig up the R-O-W to repair a waterline or install a new water meter, we are required to request (through the North Carolina One-Call System) identification of all utilities in the vicinity of the work area. NC One-Call notifies all known utilities – electric, phone, cable, gas, etc. – that work will be occurring in the area. They then will mark (with different color paint or flags) the location of their utilities. Once NC One-Call has marked, the Town is less likely to cut a line while doing our work. If, however, a private system – such as individual irrigation or pet fence system – is located in the R-O-W, we will not be aware of it, and are more likely to damage it. To report the existence of a private underground "utility" in the right-of-way in front of your house, please call Public Works at 252-441-1122. If you have questions, you can also call the Public Works Director Dave Clark at 252-449-4201.

Did you know...
that the Town does not allow most signs, such as yard sale, home sale, and similar signs, to be posted in the R-O-W?



"The two Town employees shown are standing at the edge of the right-of-way of South Lark Avenue"

News from Nags Head Fire and Rescue

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to prevent a fire during cooking. Reviewing these important lifesaving tips now could help prevent property damage, and most importantly save a life.



Did You Know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. It is also the leading cause of fire injuries.
- Deaths due to fires caused by cooking are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chance of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

Cooking Fires Life-Saving Tips

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home, in each bedroom, and in exit hall. Test smoke alarm batteries monthly and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm.
- Always wear short, tight-fitting sleeves when cooking. If your clothes catch on fire, STOP, DROP & ROLL.
- Clean cooking surfaces regularly to prevent grease buildup, which can ignite.
- If a fire breaks out while cooking, put a lid on the pan to smother it. Never throw water on a grease fire.
- If a stove fire becomes uncontrolled, or fire involves the structure, immediately evacuate the area and call 911. However, if you can do so **safely**, attempt to extinguish the fire from at least ten feet away. Use an ABC fire extinguisher deployed at the base of the fire. Remember, items can be replaced, but you cannot!
- Heat oil gradually to avoid burns from spattering grease. Use extra caution when preparing deep-fried foods.
- Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure all small appliances are turned off.

If you have questions about safe cooking, call Nags Head Fire and Rescue at 252-441-5909.
http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/quick_response/ffwf-11.shtm



RECYCLING INFORMATION

Collection Centers

Nags Head Town Hall	8 a.m. - Sunset (Daily)
Nags Head Public Works	7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. M-F
Huron St. Public Beach Access	Daily

Neighborhood Collection Points

Hours 10 a.m. - Sunset

Mon.	Baltic St. Beach Access
Tues.	Town Park (West at Barnes St.)
Thurs.	Windjammer Rd. (North Ridge)
Fri.	Old Nags Head Cove at Danube St. Sound Access

See page 1 for information on the Town's new recycling collection program.

Town Boards and Committees

Board of Commissioners

Mayor M. Renée Cahoon; Mayor Pro Tem Anna D. Sadler; Wayne Gray; Bob Oakes; and Doug Remaley

Planning Board

Robert Edwards, Chair; Carl “Pogie” Worsley, Vice-Chair; Susie Walters; Angelina Lowe; John Ratzenberger; and Clyde Futrell

Board of Adjustments

Jack Cooper, Chair; Margaret Suppler, Vice-Chair; Alvin Hibbs; Susan Boncek; and Annette Ratzenberger. Alternates are Russell Lay, Deborah Bryant, Bob Muller; and Matt Whelan

Note

Serve your community by volunteering for a Town board or committee. Applications are kept on file for consideration by the Board of Commissioners when vacancies occur. If interested, please call the Town Clerk at 252-449-2009 or obtain an application from www.townofnagshead.net.

Personnel Grievance Panel

John Ratzenberger; Perry White; and George Barnes

Citizens Advisory Committee

John Ratzenberger, Chair; Russell Lay, Vice-Chair; Susan Boncek; Deborah Bryant; John White; Dennis Mabe; Marty Moore; Suzanne Tatem; and Isabel Pitcher

Municipal Complex Information

Town Manager

Charles L. Cameron/Public Safety Director

Deputy Town Manager

Cliff Ogburn

Public Safety Director

Charles L. Cameron

Planning and Development Director

Tim L. Wilson

Public Works Director

Dave Clark

Finance Officer

Kim Kenny

Town Clerk

Carolyn F. Morris

Public Information

5401 S. Croatan Highway
Administration, Finance/Tax, Water Billing, Planning/
Development
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
252-441-5508, Email: info@townofnagshead.net

Public Works

2200 Lark Avenue
Public Facilities Maintenance, Sanitation, Fleet Maintenance,
Water Distribution and Operations
Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
252-441-1122
Email: publicworks@townofnagshead.net

Police

Emergency **9-1-1**
Non Emergency 252-473-3444
5401 S. Croatan Highway
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
252-441-6386, Fax 252-441-7335
Email: police@townofnagshead.net

Fire and Ocean Rescue

Emergency **9-1-1**
Non Emergency 252-473-3444
Fire Station 16, 5314 S. Croatan Highway
24 Hours, 252-441-5909, Fax 252-441-8268
Fire Station 21, 8806 S. Old Oregon Inlet Road
24 Hours, 252-441-2910, Fax 252-441-3978
Email: fire@townofnagshead.net



NAGS HEAD LINES
Town of Nags Head
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Town Meeting Calendar

Agendas for Board of Commissioners meetings are published in advance in *The Coastland Times*. All meetings will be held in the Board Room unless otherwise specified. Agenda and background material for the Board of Commissioners meetings can be found on the Town's web site at www.townofnagshead.net.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>
Daytime		
Board of Commissioners	September 3, October 1, November 5	9:00 a.m.
Board of Adjustments (meets as necessary)	September 11, October 9, November 13	9:00 a.m.
Nighttime		
Board of Commissioners*	September 17, October 15, November 19	7:30 p.m.
Planning Board	September 16, October 21, November 18	7:30 p.m.
Community Watch Meeting	September 9, October 14, November 11	7:00 p.m.

*Adjourned session meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held as necessary. Check newspaper listings, call Town Hall at 252-441-5508, or check the Town web site for more information.

The Citizens Advisory Committee and Personnel Grievance Panel meet as needed.
Visit the Town web site for current meeting information.